

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An information management apparatus generates an authentication image based on information registered by a user, and issues the authentication image to an information processing terminal owned by the user. When the user purchases a commodity in a store and shows the authentication image, the information processing terminal transfers the authentication image to a retailer terminal. The retailer terminal requests the information management apparatus to authenticate the authentication image. If the information management apparatus verifies that the authentication image is authentic, the information management apparatus generates a new authentication image instead of the authentication image displayed on the information processing terminal. The new authentication image is then sent through the retailer terminal to the information processing terminal. The present invention is applicable to an apparatus that is used when the user requires to identify himself.